

## FAQ: Visa Waiver Program Travel – Machine-Readable and Biometric Passports, Extended Validity and Emergency and Temporary Passports

### Q. What are the passport requirements for travel under the U.S. Visa Waiver Program?

- All passports for travel under the U.S. Visa Waiver Program must be machine-readable.
- Machine-readable passports issued or renewed/extended **before October 26, 2005**, are accepted without further requirements.
- Machine-readable passports issued or renewed/extended **between October 26, 2005 and October 25, 2006**, must have either a digital photograph integrated into the data page or an integrated chip containing information from the data page.
- Machine-readable passports issued or renewed/extended **beginning October 26, 2006**, must have an integrated electronic chip with information from the data page.

### Q. What about children's passports?

- German children's passports, or *Kinderreisepaesse*, issued prior to October 26, 2006 are eligible for Visa Waiver Program travel provided they meet the passport requirements in the above paragraph.
- Children's passports **issued on or after October 26, 2006 are not eligible** for visa-free entry into the United States under the Visa Waiver program since they will not contain an integrated electronic chip.
- Children's ID cards, or *Kinderausweise*, are not acceptable for Visa Waiver Program travel.
- Children included in a parent's passport cannot travel under the Visa Waiver Program. Each child must have a visa or a valid, "biometric" *Reisepass* for travel to the U.S.

### Q. Are German emergency and temporary passports valid for travel to the U.S?

As of May 1, 2006, German emergency and temporary passports are no longer valid for visa-free travel to the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program. Holders of these passports who intend to travel to or through the United States must first obtain a U.S. visa. For this reason, we recommend that Germans with urgent travel plans consider applying for an "[Expresspass](#)," which is a normal, biometric German *Reisepass*, valid for visa-free travel, and normally issued within five working days.

### Q. How long will it take to get a visa?

Visa appointments are generally available within a week in Germany, though wait times can be considerably longer during summer months. Please visit the Department of State's website at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors\\_wait.php](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php) for more information on visa wait times in Berlin, Frankfurt, and Munich.